Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 /109 W --------043192 081620Z /43

R 081441Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6789
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS USBERLIN 1088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB

SUBJECT: BERLIN PRESS COVERAGE OF ALLIED STATEMENT ON NICO HUEBNER

REF: (A) BONN 8043, (B) USBERLIN 1046, (C) USBERLIN 1063

1. BERLIN DAILIES GAVE PROMINENT AND FACTUAL COVERAGE OF ALLIED PRESS STATEMENT ON NICO HUEBNER (REFTELA). STATEMENT WAS ALSO PICKED UP BY GERMAN PRESS AGENCY (DPA) AND REPORTED IN A NUMBER OF WEST GERMAN DAILIES. MOST NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS EMPHASIZED THAT ALLIES CONSIDER DEMILITARIZED STATUS TO APPLY IN ALL SECTORS OF CITY, AND THAT THE UNALTERED ALLIED POSITION IS WITHOUT A DOUBT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE SOVIETS. PAPERS PLACED SECONDARY STRESS ON THAT ASPECT OF STATEMENT WHICH INDICATED SOVIET OBSTRUCTIONISM DID NOT PERMIT THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA TO PUT ALLIED ORDINANCES INTO EFFECT IN EAST BERLIN. THERE WERE NO RPT NO EDITORIALS ON THE SUBJECT IN THE MAY 3 PRESS.

2. DIE WELT EDITORIAL MAY 5 THREW GDR ARMY BERLIN UNCLASSIFIED

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"CITY COMMANDANT'S" STATEMEN THAT THE ALLIED DECLARATION ON DEMILITARIZATION WAS "MEANINGLESS" BACK AT HIM (REF C) WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT "IT IS KUNATH'S STATEMENT THAT IS LEGALLY MEANINGLESS;" IT SHOWING FURTHER THAT IN THE COURSE OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN THE SOVIETS WERE "IN NO WAY READY TO DO ANYTHING LEADING TO THE RELAXATION OF TENSION IN BERLIN." THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN

RIGHTS, REPORTED IN TAGESSPIEGEL MAY 4, CRITICIZED KUNATH'S DECLARATION AS "LEGALLY IRRELEVANT"; AN "ARROGATION OF FOUR-POWER COMPETENCE" AND TERMED THE EXISTENCE OF AN EAST GERMAN ARMY "CITY COMMANDANT" A VIOLATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THE SOCIETY CALLED ON THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO WORK FOR THE FREEING OF HUEBNER.

3. DIE WAHRHEIT, THE SEW NEWSPAPER, WHICH HEWS CLOSE TO THE GDR LINE, ECHOED ON MAY 5 THE ADN REJECTION OF THE ALLIED STATEMENT ON DEMILITARIZATION, ATTACKING HUEBNER AS "A PERSON MORE THAN ONCE PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED" (WITHOUT SPECIFYING CHARGES) "WHO IS BEING PUSHED FORWARD IN WEST BERLIN IN ORDER TO PROMOTE VIOLATION OF GDR LAWS AND TO SELL THE THESIS DEVOID OF REALITY," THAT THERE IS A "FOUR-POWER STATUS OF ALL BERLIN." GDR COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY NEIEDVSUOSCHBAND HAS KEPT SILENT ON ALLIED STATEMENT SO FAR.

4. REMAINDER OF WEST BERLIN PRESS REPORTED ALLIED STATEMENT FACTUALLY WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. TAGESSPIEGEL MAY 4 REPORTS COMMENTS OF BERLIN CDU BUNDESTAG MEMBER KITTELMANN, WHO CALLED ALLIED STATEMENT "WELCOME" IN THAT IT CLEARLY CONFIRMED THE LEGAL POSITION ON THE DEMILITARIZATION OF BERLIN. NO OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS HAVE BEEN QUOTED IN THE PRESS. GEORGE

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Subject: BERLIN PRESS COVERAGE OF ALLIED STATEMENT ON NICO HUEBNER

TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, WB, US, BQG, AKB, (HUEBNER, NICO)

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